

# CAROL'S KIDS NEWS

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## APPLIED BEHAVIORAL CONCEPTS ATTENDS THE P.L.A.Y. PROJECT CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE AUTISM SOCIETY

Carol Vancil, Suzanne Roten and Kim Cantrell traveled to Montgomery to attend the P.L.A.Y. Project Conference. The Conference by Dr. Rick Solomon, a Developmental Pediatrician, presented current information based on Stanley Greenspan's "Floortime" work with children on the autism spectrum.

The conference was sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield, Easter Seals and the Autism Society at the Montgomery Fine Arts Museum.

"Carol was asked by Maura Edwards (SLP) if we would like to attend. Since we do so much incidental teaching and inclusion in the classrooms, I was looking forward

to hearing about the new research they are publishing," said Kim Cantrell, B.S.

P.L.A.Y. Project was created by Richard Solomon M.D., and is based on the DIR® (Developmental, Individualized, Relationship-based) theory of Stanley Greenspan M.D.,

The P.L.A.Y. Project recommends many of the same components as the traditional Applied Behavior Analysis specifically; early and intensive intervention, low student teacher ratio of no more than 1:2, reinforcing (engaging) interactions and goal driven play.

"It is reassuring that so much of what we do here at Applied Behavioral Concepts is recommended by so many of the

other practitioners in the field." said Carol Vancil, BCBA. "We always insure that our children meet their goals in an effective way through a variety of learning modalities and remain confident in our methodology."

Attending the conference has spawned some fresh ideas in including play and new ways to use sensory input as a reinforcer.

This one-day workshop focused on the developmental theories behind Greenspan's work and the resulting DIR Theory. While there was mention made of research to be published, it was not presented in the conference.

## AUTISM RESOURCE FOUNDATION EVENT

The wine pairing dinner and golf outing were held on August 12 and 13. Both events were well attended. The wine dinner was elegant with black linens and rose centerpieces from Glen's Florists. Classical piano music was played by Nicky Wilson. The meal was prepared by the Ledges Chef and consisted of five courses paired with wine from Key

Selections.

A silent auction followed the fourth course and raised additional funds. Including two autographed footballs, one from Auburn, another from the University of Alabama.

While the day was extremely hot, 17 teams began at 12:30 pm at the Ledges. Several cars, hole in one and closest to the pin prizes were available as well as a put-

ting contest. Both events were successful thanks to the work of Radonna Ridner-Thurman and Jeff Walczak,

The next event, a Casino Night, will be held on September 22 at 7pm at the Roundhouse in Huntsville. Contact Suzanne 797-SUZY, Jeff 714-8464 or email the autismresourcefoundation@gmail.com

APPLIED BEHAVIORAL CONCEPTS, INC. OFFERS:

INCLUSION

INCIDENTAL TEACHING

DISCRETE TRIALS

1:1 OR 2:1 STUDENT TEACHER RATIO

BEHAVIOR STRATEGIES

SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS

TRAINING FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

THOROUGH EVALUATIONS

# YOGA AND FITNESS IN AUTISM

At the ALABA Conference (Alabama Association of Behavior Analysts) October 2007, one of the breakout sessions focused on yoga for children diagnosed with an ASD. Applied Behavioral Concepts, has been working for several months with a nationally certified fitness instructor to provide this service.

In addition, are in the process of implementing a fitness program to supplement the work of physical and occupational therapy, for our children at the Premier facilities. Additionally, DVD's will be made available to families interested in these techniques in our home and out of town programs.

"We have such a wonderful facility to provide gross motor activities. We have access to the playground

daily." said Carol Vancil, BCBA. "We have been able to teach children how to climb stairs and ladders. We have taught several children to ride tricycles. The playground also has two soccer goals, a jungle gym and a sandbox for sensory play available every day. If it is rainy, cold, or too hot, we play organized games in the gym like Simon Says, or the summer camp favorite, Duck, Duck Goose."

"We feel adding yoga class will provide children with a new opportunity to improve movement and balance" says Suzanne Roten, BA, "This is just another tool we can use to aid children with autism in physical development." So far the response has been positive from teachers, parents, and children alike. Applied Behavioral Concepts offered few classes during summer camp for the group of younger chil-

dren. "Our instructor was really excited and encouraged by the response from the children." said Carol Vancil, BCBA. "He was able to do more poses than he thought he would be able to do."

Breaking the movements down into a story helped the children move from one pose to the next. Mixing the typical peer models into the classes will allow modeling to occur for all children with developmental delays of all types.

"We are excited to be able to offer additional services to meet the needs of all the children." said Carol Vancil, BCBA.

Look for upcoming classes available to preschoolers and early elementary in the very near future on our website as well as the Premier website.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Fundraiser for the Autism Resource Foundation

September 22, 2007

Casino night at the Roundhouse also featured on the front page.

### Making Connections Parents meetings

September 29

For more information about Making Connections call Debbie Bumbika at 256-885-5959.

Childcare is available on a first come first

served basis.

### North Alabama Chapter Autism Society

Held at the Jane K Lowe, on Lowe Circle, near Pete's Body shop. Child care is available. For more information call Carol Wright 880-1239 or visit

[www.autism-society.org/chapter 101](http://www.autism-society.org/chapter101).

*The Autism Resource Foundation offers help for families in the Huntsville area. The mission of ARF is to provide a financial and family support network. For information or to support the mission, please contact Jeff at 714-8464.*

**Fall Break Camps** Please keep checking our websites as fall break camps are being formed! More information to follow on the week of October 8.

In addition to teacher training, some provided by Applied Behavioral Concepts, Premier Schools now offers **CEU Courses now open to the public!** Contact Premier Schools for more information 489-5437

September 11: Adaptive Books

September 25: Using Books

October 11: Health & Safety

October 27: Material Explorations

## SPOTLIGHT ON MATT LAW

**Mr. Matt Law** holds a Masters of Science Degree from Jacksonville State with an emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis. He has worked with children and adults with behavior problems for three years. He began his career working as a therapist for children with autism in a home setting.

After completing his Master's Degree, Mr. Law moved to Tennessee

where he worked as an Approved Behavior Analyst for the Department of Mental Retardation. Mr. Law rejoined Applied Behavioral Concepts last December

Matt is married and lives in Decatur. He works in the Bradford facility, but helped with the older kids full day summer camp during the months of June and July. Matt has returned to the Bradford camp for the school

year, but also oversees one of the two after school programs as well as participates in home therapy treatments.

Mr. Law was recognized in the *Who's Who* among American Colleges and Universities. Mr. Law is currently receiving mentor hours to complete his requirements and sit for his certification as a Behavior Analyst. He should be eligible to sit for his examination in November of this year.